



Animal &
Plant Health
Agency

Import of Rodentia and Lagomorpha to be used for Feeding to Reptiles, Non-wild Birds of Prey and Zoo Animals (other than farmed land animals)

Import Information Note (IIN) ABP/27

January 2024

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1. General Information

This Import Information Note (IIN) must be read in conjunction with the IIN for general information for imports of animal by-products (ABP), which provides information on pre-notifications, veterinary checks, risk categories etc.

General information for imports of animal by-products (ABP) (defra.gov.uk)

References to European Union (EU) legislation within this document are references to direct EU Legislation which has been assimilated in Great Britain (assimilated direct legislation), as defined in the Retained EU Law (Revocation and Reform) Act 2023 and can be viewed on the UK legislation website ([legislation.gov.uk](https://www.legislation.gov.uk)).

2. Scope

Import conditions for rodentia and lagomorpha (rodents and rabbits/hares) to be used for feeding to reptiles, non-wild birds of prey and zoo animals (other than farmed land animals).

Note: The scope of this IIN does **not** extend to rodentia and lagomorpha (rodents and rabbits/hares) which are to be used for feeding to pet animals including cats and dogs.

Please refer to the following IINs for import conditions for:

- [Import of Raw Pet Food for Direct Sale IIN ABP/3D](#)
- [Import of Animal By-products for the Manufacture of Pet Food IIN ABP/3F](#)

Under Annex XIV, Chapter IV, Section 2 of [Regulation \(EU\) 142/2011](#) the competent authority may authorise the import of the following materials for purposes other than feeding to farmed land animals:

- Category 3 material comprising of animals and parts thereof of the zoological orders of Rodentia and Lagomorpha.

Imports of consignments of these animal by-products shall take place in accordance with veterinary and sanitary certification requirements in accordance with national rules.

3. Production standards

The Rodentia and Lagomorpha must be deep frozen and free from Salmonella and other pathogenic organisms or dried by a treatment sufficient to destroy pathogenic organisms, including Salmonella.

4. Country of origin

a) In the case of Rodentia

Applications will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

b) In the case of lagomorpha

Imports are permitted from trading partners listed in a document published by the Secretary of State, with the consent of the Scottish and Welsh Ministers for:

- [Non-EU countries](#)
- [EU and EFTA countries](#)

Imports are permitted from countries listed in the documents for meat of wild leporidae, of certain wild land mammals and of farmed rabbits from which imports of fresh meat from leporidae (rabbits and hares) species are authorised.

5. Health certification/documentation

Each consignment must be accompanied by a commercial document stating the details as laid down in the authorisation issued by the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA).

6. Authorisation

Prior to importation, an authorisation must be obtained from APHA. The authorisation sets out the conditions for importing these animal by-products into Great Britain. This document MUST be obtained by the importer before imports can take place. To apply for an authorisation please fill in an application form.

- [Application form](#)

Please note that this requirement will not come into force for animal products imported from EU and EFTA countries until the end of 2024. Until an authorisation is required, these products can be imported with a commercial document.

7. Labelling requirements

All packages must either:

- bear a label indicating “NOT FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION, NOR FEEDING TO FARMED LANDANIMALS, DOGS OR CATS” or,
- if they are dispatched in ready-to-sell packages the label must state “FOR FEEDING TO REPTILES/NON-WILD BIRDS OF PREY / ZOO ANIMALS (EXCLUDING FARMED LAND ANIMALS) ONLY”

8. Salmonella testing requirements

a) In the case of Rodentia

All consignments must be subject to random testing (approximately 2% of consignments with consignment release) (with at least one consignment tested in the six-month period following the issue of the authorisation) for Salmonella at the Border Control Post of introduction to Great Britain, in addition to any other tests the Official Veterinary Surgeon deems appropriate.

For each consignment to be sampled, 60 rodents should be collected from throughout the consignment (i.e., each sample to be taken from a different bag as far as practicable) and be submitted as 12 final samples for analysis (designed to detect a 5% within-batch prevalence).

If any samples are found to have a positive result the information will be passed to the relevant local authority who will act in accordance with the latest guidance from Public Health Agencies including PHE, PHS and PHW). Following a positive result the next 10 consignments will be tested for Salmonella and detained at the Border Control Post (BCP) until the test results are known in accordance with [Implementing Regulation \(EU\) 2019/1715](#). The costs incurred to the BCP (above the standard charge) will need to be met by the importer. Once 10 consecutive consignments have been tested without any testing positive for Salmonella, the sampling will revert back to random testing.

If any samples test positive for Salmonella, the whole consignment will be rejected, and either be re-dispatched or destroyed. All costs must be met by the importer.

b) In the case of Lagomorpha

All consignments must be subject to random testing (approximately 2% of consignments with consignment release) for Salmonella at the Border Control Post of introduction under the sampling protocol as laid down in Regulation (EU) 142/2011, in addition to any other tests the Official Veterinary Surgeon deems appropriate.

9. Movement from the BCP to premises of destination

On arrival into Great Britain the by-products must be delivered to either:

- a technical plant dedicated to the use of such materials, and which has been approved in accordance with Article 24 of [Regulation \(EC\) 1069/2009](#); or
- a pet food plant approved in accordance with Article 24 of Regulation (EC) 1069/2009; or
- a holding or establishment keeping animals in accordance with the requirements referred to in Article 18 of Regulation (EC) 1069/2009; or
- directly for retail sale where the animal by-products are dispatched in ready-to –sell packages bearing a label with a clear indication that the content is only destined for

the feeding to reptiles/non-wild birds of prey/zoo animals (other than farmed land animals) only (see labelling requirement at 7. above) and deep frozen or dried.

10. Contact for further information

For further information regarding import requirements, contact the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) Imports team:

Centre for International Trade - Carlisle
Eden Bridge House
Lowther Street
Carlisle
CA3 8DX

Email: Imports@apha.gov.uk

Telephone: 03000 200 301



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www.gov.uk/apha

The Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) is an executive agency of the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs, and also works on behalf of the Scottish Government and Welsh Government.